

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

- 1-3. (Canceled).
4. (Previously presented) An instruction pipe control method comprising:
reading a call instruction from an instruction pipestage,
determining, with reference to other instructions read previously from the instruction pipestage, whether immediate processing of the call instruction would exceed a predetermined access rate of the instruction pipe to a return-stack buffer and,
stalling processing of the call instruction until sufficient time has expired to synchronize processing of the call instruction with the predetermined access rate.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising, after the stalling terminates, storing a return address associated with the call instruction both locally and in a shared resource.
6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the stalling stalls the instruction pipestage and all other instruction pipestages before it in the instruction pipe.
7. (Previously presented) An interface method for an instruction pipe that shares access to a return-stack buffer, comprising:
reading a call instruction from an instruction pipestage,
determining with reference to other call and/or return instructions read previously from the instruction pipestage, whether immediate processing of the call instruction would cause the instruction pipe to exceed the instruction pipe's access allocation to the return-stack buffer,
if so, stalling a new instruction, and after the stalling terminates, storing a return address associated with the call instruction both locally and in a shared resource.
8. (Canceled).
9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the stalling stalls the instruction pipestage and all other instruction pipestages before it in the instruction pipe.
- 10-26. (Canceled).